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THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-sixth year

Letter dated 17 January 1991 from the Chargé d'affaires a.i.
of the Mission of Costa Rica to the United Nations addressed
to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith the statement drawn up today by the Government of Costa Rica concerning the conflict in the Persian Gulf (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex distributed as an official document of the forty-sixth session of the General Assembly concerning the item entitled "The situation in the Middle East" and of the Security Council.

(Signed) José María BORBON
Ambassador
Chargé d'affaires a.i.

ANNEX

Statement by the Government of Costa Rica concerning the conflict
in the Persian Gulf, issued in San Juan on 17 January 1991

The Government of Costa Rica once again expresses its profound concern at the development of the armed conflict in the region of the Persian Gulf and its support for the action which the multinational force, duly authorized by the United Nations, has taken under the leadership of the United States of America in order to bring about the liberation of Kuwait.

The Government of Costa Rica supports the difficult and painful decision by the Government of the United States of America and the other countries of the multinational force to commence military action, a decision which was taken after all the diplomatic possibilities to bring about a peaceful solution to the conflict had been completely exhausted and when it became clear that there was no other way to safeguard the primacy of international law and the continued existence itself of the United Nations system. The Government of Costa Rica also recognizes the precautions taken by the forces of the United States of America and its allies aimed at attacking as far as possible only military targets and causing the least possible suffering to the civilian population.

The Government of Costa Rica fervently hopes that the military action will be concluded as soon as possible in order to prevent greater loss of life and a dangerous deterioration of the ecological balance, the very serious consequences of which would have to be borne by future generations. Faithful to its tradition as a nation without an army, Costa Rica also hopes that, as soon as hostilities cease, effective steps can be taken, within the framework of the international system, to ensure a future marked by peace and well-being for all the peoples of the Middle East without exception.
